FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 AUGUST 1980

[The following is the first issue of the Middle East and South Asia Review, a synopsis of significant events and trends in the Middle East and South Asia and reaction to important international developments compiled from material monitored by FBIS. It will be published Monday through Friday, except holidays.]

Begin Letter

ITIM carried the text of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's reply to Egyptian President as-Sadat's second letter on the state of Egyptian-Israeli relations. Again revealing great sensitivity to Egyptian media and leader statements about both himself and Israel, Begin decried the "venomous campaign" of the Egyptian press and claimed that on an official level as well Egypt is not fulfilling its obligations under the peace treaty to refrain from "hostile propaganda." Citing a note he sent to President Carter on 17 September 1978, Begin said that Israel made a commitment to stop constructing new settlements only during the period set for the negotiation of the peace treaty, not the autonomy talks as As-Sadat had implied in his letter. He reiterated that Jerusalem is Israel's capital and is "indivisible" and dismissed Saudi Foreign Minister Fahd's threat of war as of "no concern to us." Begin interpreted Security Council Resolution 242 as not obligating Israel to carry out "what is called 'complete withdrawal'" from the occupied territories and claimed that there is a "general consensus" in the country not to retreat in any sector to the pre-1967 borders. Begin asked for an immediate renewal of the tripartite autonomy negotiations, which will remain disrupted, he told As-Sadat, "if you persist in your negative attitude." Begin in conclusion said that the Egyptian president should first have consulted him and President Carter through confidential channels on the idea of a tripartite summit, but he did not rule out the idea, saying that they should "quietly consider" the matter.

Israeli Incursion

In a statement reported by Beirut radio, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus complained that the latest Israeli incursion into southern Lebanon is being met by "indifference" from the "strong" states and by the inability of the Arab countries to counter Israeli policy with an "integral and realistic strategic plan." The radio also reported that Lebanon has lodged a strong protest with the UN Security Council over the Israeli action. Cairo reaction thus far has been confined to a brief radio report citing Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali as saying only that the incursion is a contravention of international law and a "new obstacle" to peace. Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir remarked in an interview with IDF Radio that without operations such as this Israel "would not stand a chance." Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan, also interviewed on IDF Radio, called the operation the largest since the Litani operation in 1978 and said as many as 60 terrorists had been killed.

Jerusalem Committee

The emergency session of the Islamic Conference Organization's Jerusalem committee concluded in Rabat on 18 August with a final statement reported by Rabat radio and MAP. The statement's 21 points included pledges to support the PLO financially and morally, to institute a political and economic boycott against states that have embassies in Jerusalem or recognize it as the capital of Israel, to take steps to broaden Western recognition of the PLO and urge nonaligned states to sever relations with Israel, and to use Arab communities in Western countries--especially the United States--to apply pressure for Arab goals. The statement also called for the convening of an emergency session of the foreign ministers of the Islamic states in Morocco on 18 September.

Libya

While not directly denying foreign press reports that Libyan military units in Tobruk had risen against the government and that fighting is still raging in that city, JANA announced that the international media had "mistakenly believed" that a state of alert had been called in Libya, when in reality such a measure is being taken by Egypt in preparation for a military offensive. JANA made no mention of the reported coup attempt in Tobruk, but it sought to give the assurance that all is normal in that city by announcing that a gala celebration would be held there on 20 August to commemorate the 1 September revolution and that the festivities would be covered live by both television and radio. To date, Tripoli radio has given no indication of domestic strife in the country.

Iraq, Syria

Baghdad and Damascus radios have thus far given little attention to Iraq's 18 August raid on the Syrian Embassy in Baghdad and the expulsion of the entire Syrian diplomatic staff, aside from replaying their respective governments' statements on the affair. Briefly referring to the raid in a 19 August speech reported by INA, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn asserted that the large amount of poisons found in the Syrian Embassy indicated that he was not the only target but that the Iraqi people were also intended victims. Perhaps pending the conclusion of a plenary meeting of the Syrian Ba'th Party Central Committee, Damascus has had no further comment since the government statement of the 18th "regretting" Iraq's continued hostility and indulgence in "sideshows."

Iran, USSR

According to Tehran radio, the Soviet union has closed its consulate general in Esfahan and is changing its consulate in Rasht to a consulate general. This follows Iranian demands for the closure of one of the two consulates in retaliation for Soviet denial of an Iranian request, following the closure of the Iranian Consulate in Leningrad, to open a consulate in Dushanbe.

Khomeyni Health

While Ayatollah Khomeyni's public appearances have not significantly decreased recently, concern for his health is being voiced over Tehran radio. Khomeyni himself admitted, in a speech to a group of Urumiyeh residents on 16 August, that he was "not quite well now," and the same day his office issued a statement urging people not to come to see him without an appointment. On 19 August Tehran radio reiterated the need to pay attention to announcements on Khomeyni's health and categorically stated that doctors have "strictly banned" meetings with him, having determined them to be "harmful to his health and condition."

Karmal Speech

Afghan leader Babrak Karmal used an independence day speech broadcast by Kabul radio to reiterate the standard Soviet and Afghan line that Soviet "limited military contingents" entered Afghan territory only after "continuous requests" by the Afghan Government for the defense of Afghan national interests and will return home once the "countries of the region" guaranteed cessation of interference in Afghanistan. He insisted that Afghanistan poses not the "slightest" danger to its neighbors, especially Pakistan and Iran, and rejected assertions that the USSR is using Afghanistan as a steppingstone to warmwater ports as "instigatory fabrications" by the imperialists.

YAR, PDRY

PDRY Defense Minister 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar has returned from San'a' where he delivered a message from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Aden radio reported the PDRY defense minister as saying only that he had gone to San'a' as part of the "joint efforts" of the leadership of the two "parts" toward achieving unity. San'a' radio in earlier reports on the visit was no more forthcoming with details.

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KARMAL ADDRESSES NATION ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

LD192152 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Address to the nation by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, on the occasion of Afghan Independence Day--live or recorded, in Dari]

[Excerpts] Free compatriots, brothers and sisters: Today, 19 August, corresponds to one of the most sensational pages in the proud history of our beloved country, Afghanistan. Sixty-one years ago, the brave freedom fighters of the country, the red flag of freedom in their hands, with their bodies covered in blood, their heads held high and their chests full of (?love) for the country and the firelike love for freedom and independence, declared the just fight for freedom against the satanical and heretical forces of colonialism, who had spread the (?net) of pain and persecution, insult and contempt, poverty and subjugation over our free people.

Despite the fact that at that time the young Soviet republic was encountering big problems which were created by the imperialist aggressors, in the course of carrying out its international duties it did not spare any kind of fraternal material and moral assistance for the safeguarding of the independence of Afghanistan and later, its consolidation and stability. In the first year of the [word indistinct] of the independence of our country, the young Soviet republic put at the disposal of the Government of Afghanistan 1 million gold rubles, a number of airplanes and 5,000 rifles with the necessary ammunition and also constructed a gunpowder factory, established an aviation school and sent technical and other experts as grant-in-aid. It made every effort to make Afghanistan able to defend its independence against the interference and aggression of internal and foreign reaction.

After World War II British rule in Asia ended. The place of the trickster British imperialism was taken by the world-devouring U.S. imperialism. The United States in its aggressive foreign policy concerning Asia selected an important place for the accomplishment of its sinister plans. That was Afghanistan. U.S. imperialism was trying to detach Afghanistan from its nonaligned policy and lead it to the aggressive military, political and ideological blocs of the West, and as a result transform Afghanistan into the launching point for its military plan aimed at crushing the freedom movement of the people of Afghanistan and at launching aggression against the USSR.

Immediately after the success of the revolution U.S. imperialism, in collusion with the Chinese expansionists and with the support of the reactionary militarist regime of Pakistan, the regime of the sellout As-Sadat and other regimes linked to Arab imperialism and reaction, the remnants of the Iranian SAVAK and Zionism, began conspiring against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA]. The aim of these conspiracies was clear: to overthrow the new progressive regime in Afghanistan, to reestablish feudal regime in Afghanistan and to deprive the people of Afghanistan of independence and freedom.

The USSR Government, in accordance with its indefatigable loyalty to internationalism and according to its (?peace-loving) foreign policy and assistance to the national liberation movements of the people of the world who encounter aggressive imperialist encroachments, in giving a positive reply to the continuous requests of the DRA Government, sent limited military contingents to Afghanistan.

There was and still is one and only one problem for these military contingents, and that is to help the people of Afghanistan in their struggle against the aggressors and to repulse the aggression and interference of the enemies of the freedom and independence of Afghanistan. This help of the USSR for the people of Afghanistan does not endanger the interest of a third country, and is completely in accordance with the agreement of friendship, neighborliness and cooperation which was signed in December 1978 between the two countries, and is in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. That, as is said, the peace-loving USSR wants to reach warm water, the Persian Gulf and so on via Afghanistan is nothing but provocative instigatory fabrication and wicked mendacious lies by imperialist reaction, headed by the blood-devouring U.S. imperialism, the Chinese aggressors and the seditionist reaction of the region. Revolutionary Afghanistan resolutely desires peace and security, peace and friendship of nations, freedom and unity of people, the independence of nations and the integrity of the countries of the world, and wants a peaceful solution to the misunderstandings and issues between the nations and states of the region and the world.

No danger, not the slightest, from the peace-loving and sacred soil of Afghanistan will threaten our neighboring countries, especially our brotherly neighbors Iran and Pakistan. Officially and with all peace-loving sincerity we have announced to the countries of the region that with their reliable guarantee concerning the cessation of provocations, interference and aggression on our country and soil and against the lively national interests of our people, the limited military contingents will return to their great peace-loving country. Only for the defense of the national and territorial integrity of our country did we ask our Soviet brothers and friends to help.

SPECIAL ROMANIAN ENVOY RECEIVED BY KARMAL 19 AUG

LD191720 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, this afternoon received Vasile Dungan, the special envoy of N. Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania and minister of state, for a courtesy call in the Revolution Council headquarters. Vasile Pungan conveyed a message from N. Ceausescu to Babrak Karmal and expressed the best wishes of the said president for the personal health of Babrak Karmal and his hearty desire to see the great successes of the people of Afghanistan toward the construction of a prosperous, developed and progressive society.

In reply Babrak Karmal expressed his appreciation for the friendly and sincere message of N. Ceausescu and wished him good health and success for the people of Romania toward the construction of a developed socialist society.

Meeting With Keshtmand

LD191726 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Text] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Politburo, vice chairman of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, this afternoon received the special envoy of N. Ceausescu, Romanian minister of state, at his office.

At this meeting, topics of mutual interest and the furtherance of cooperation between the two countries and the consolidation of friendship between the peoples of the two countries were discussed.

Meeting With Dost

LD191834 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Text] The special envoy of the president of Romania, N. Ceausescu, began official talks with Shah Mohammad Dost, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] minister of foreign affairs, at the ministry headquarters this morning.

In these talks, both sides exchanged all-round views on a series of topics of mutual interest in the national and international area and on relations between the two countries.

In the course of these friendly talks, Vasile Pungan, the special envoy of the president of Romania, promised the DRA Government every kind of cooperation from his country toward the realization of the lofty goals of the new development stage of the successful Sawr Revolution.

The BAKHTAR reporter reports that Vasile Pungan, the special emissary of N. Ceausescu, the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, attended a cocktail party in his honor this afternoon at the reception hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which was hosted by Shah Mohammad Dost, the minister of foreign affairs.

Fazl Rahim Mohamand, the minister of agriculture and land reform, a number of high ranking government officials and also a number of resident diplomats in Kabul took part.

GROUP OF 'BANDITS' CAPTURED IN KHOLM DISTRICT

LD191530 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Text] A group of 70 bandits, highway robbers, murderers, terrorists and the bought slaves of imperialism, who were disrupting the peaceful life of the toilers of Kholm district of Samangan Province and who were mercilessly killing women, children, old people, and government and party members contrary to civil and human dignity and who were embarking on arson and other criminal activities, were captured the day before yesterday, in [words indistinct] by security forces and party members with the help and cooperation of the people of the district.

An information source for the Kholm district said: This debased group and professional killers had embarked on murder, terrorism, arson, robbery and abduction in the Kholm district. In the past few days, 70 of these murderers were captured as a result of an exchange of fire with security forces and party members. The leaders of these criminals, murderers and highway robbers have confessed their inhuman and criminal acts.

FRG CITIZEN JOINS MOJAHEDIN, REPORTS ON FIGHTING

DW200803 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 18 Aug 80 pp 123-127

[Report by FRG Citizen H., who "went into battle" with the Islamic mojahedin in Afghanistan: "With World War I Arms Against the Shuwari"]

[Text] Headquarters of the mojahedin at Parakhinar, a place located directly on the Pakistani-Afghan border. On the Afghan side is the Province of Paktia, one of the areas of the most violent fighting.

The organization, part of the Islamic National Front of Afghanistan, with about 600 fighters is one of the smallest among the six guerrilla groups operating against Afghanistan from Pakistani Peshawar. The individual organizations are hopelessly quarreling among themselves. They are interspersed with KGB agents and all of them suffer from chronic shortages of funds and arms.

Officially, access to the tribal areas is strictly forbidden to foreigners. To reach that point at all one must spend a fortune in bribes. A permit to visit refugee camps at least brings you to the vicinity.

In Parakhinar arms are issued, boxes loaded into a small Mercedes bus, and an 81-mm mortar packed up.

Around noon the small convoy departs; we drive up close to the border. There the arms and ammunition are reloaded on camels; I am turned over to an Afghan group leader who, surprisingly, speaks a little German.

To avoid attracting too much attention as a foreigner I must exchange my Western dress for native clothing. I refuse the offer to have my hair dyed black. I was to regret this decision later.

Shinwan, our guide, asks en route whether I knew anything about mortars. When I answer in the affirmative he suddenly turns very friendly.

After a march of an hour through the maountains we reach the camp of the mojahedin, a former tent camp of the Afghan border police who have long been chased out of this region. Contrary to the oppressive July heat in the plains around Peshawar the climate here is pleasant, the vegetation being reminiscent of the Alps, crystal-clear creeks bubbling everywhere.

Next morning Shiwan takes me along to introduce me to other mojahedin groups. I am being passed around like a fairytale creature and eyed skeptically.

Only when Shinwan explains to them that my father and grandfather had already fought against the "Shurawi" is the spell broken. In the language of the Pashtuns, who live on both sides of the border, "Shurawi" is the word for "Soviet."

The military equipment of the mojadedin, to the extent as it is visible, is less suited for the jihad against the Shurawi than for a good place in a museum. Most of them have Lee Enfield rifles or Mauser carbines from World War I. Only a few of them have captured 10-round SKS automatic carbines or Kalashnikovs.

An English Bren machinegun without spare barrel, vintage 1945, represents the main firepower.

Finally, these warriors have a 12.7-mm and a 20-mm gun, made in Darrha. There, half an hour's drive away from Peshawar, the famous primitive arms forges of the Pashtuns are located. Darrha's legendary fame is in no proportion to the steel qualities or production tolerances of the handmade arms and ammunition.

What they show me in the way of heavy arms are two British 81-mm mortars, vintage 1930, a brand new Chinese 82-mm mortar, and a Russian RPG-7 bazooka. Large stocks of Chinese mortar ammunition and handgrenades exist.

Nowhere is there a trace of Western support, of arms quantities which the CIA has allegedly brought in. This observation is congruent with the statements by Western reporters in other battle zones.

I spend the afternoon explaining to the warriors the use of the British mortar sights. The mojahedin are familiar with rifles from childhood on, but they know virtually nothing about heavy arms.

Next day I join a patrol which is instructed to reconnoiter an Afghan Army camp. En route they show me the wreck of a BTR-60 armored personnel carrier and the ruins of a German sawmill.

The camp proper is located in the center of Jaji Valley. Since the rebels have cut off all roads in the area the garrison of about 300 men is being supplied exclusively by air. We can make out well-constructed field positions, barbed-wire entangelements, and broad minefields.

Shinwan says: "Everything as usual, no changes." This camp is like a thorn in the side of the mojahedin.

On our way back we pass through several wood sections on which trap mines have been dropped from the air, mostly a type having the shape of a leaf with a green plastic coat, but also bombs connected to clocks, rings, and ballpoint pens.

We have our fun detonating these vicious traps. They show me the victims of the booby traps at the Parakhinar hospital: mostly old people who were hit while collecting wood. The doctor treating them explains: "Worst of all are the plastic fragments because they cannot be discovered by x-ray."

On the next morning two leaders come from Peshawar with orders to attack the army camp. Now the barrels of the guns are being cleaned, arms checked, cartridges and handgrenades distributed. We wait until nightfall to be protected against the Russian combat helicopters. Then the column consisting of 300 men starts out.

The whole action demonstrates how disorganized the fighters are and with what insufficient means they fight. If the Russians cannot rule over Afghanistan, the freedom fighters cannot liberate it either.

During a rest the guerrillas pray together, asking God to make their mission a success. Thereafter the various groups separate again to return to their areas of deployment.

We creep by the camp at a distance of about 300 meters. At about midnight we reach a village where we can sleep.

Shortly after sunrise we are awakened by two MI-24 combat helicopters. They search the surrounding hills, but obviously they cannot find anything.

At about noon we depart to take up a position on Mount Yayi, whose peak we reach shortly before sunset. We have a good view of the camp from here which is located at a distance of just 2 kilometers.

The mojahedin work hard on setting up their arms. The total of three mortars begin to fire at 1900 hours. Enormous fountains of dust rise in the camp like fountains. The adversary answers with automatic guns and mortar fire. The hail of projectiles forces everybody to take cover as quickly as possible.

The fire stops at about 2200; then a loudspeaker begins to blare in the camp. Shinwan translates. A foreign agent is in the valley on whom a reward has been set.

Shinwan looks at me with mistrust, saying that there really are some people among the Mojahedin "whom one cannot trust." I realize that the situation in dangerous: Although I am clad in an Afghan way, the glasses and the blond hair indicate the foreigner.

Thank God two of our mortar shells silence the loudspeaker; we depart at about midnight. We stumble downhill in darkness and lie down to sleep in a wood.

At about late noon we are awakened by some persons carrying food, hot tea and bread, from a nearby village. It is still Ramadan, the month of fasting, but when there is fighting, there is no fasting.

In the following discussion of the situation I can convince the mojahedin that it would be suicidal to try to overrun the camp in a night attack. The fighters have by far too few mortar shells to shoot a breach through the minefield and the barbed wire fences. So one decides in favor of some new shelling by howitzers and infantry.

At sunset our team takes up the old position and starts a second issue of the shelling. Whenever a mojahedin drops a shell in the mortar, he says a short prayer to God.

We seem to be hitting the camp hard this time because the fire is not being returned. At 2030 we take our mortars apart and begin to descend to the valley. The moon rises dangerously full. Everything is lit in a ghastly pale light. The other side begins to fire with mortars.

We continue to hasten through the night, hurdling over fences and trenches filled with water and making long detours in order to avoid villages where we assume that there are inhabitants loyal to the government.

Suddenly we hit upon about 400 mojahedin in a reserve position, among them many old men who seem to view the chances of violent death rather calmly.

Shinwan says: "We begin at 2300 hours," as if he meant the beginning of a soccer game. After a short rest the small unit marches on.

Half an hour later the fighting begins again. The camp turns into a fire-spitting volcano. Mortar shells explode everywhere. The fight is riddled by shafts of tracer fire. We try to get out of that inferno as quickly as possible, running away to all sides in head-long flight.

After hours of marching back we reach the posts safeguarding the way to the border. At 0200 hours we stumble fatigued into our tents.

When I leave the camp in the morning to take the bus to Peshawar, I now hear the Russian combat helicopters bombing the village. I had the feeling of running over a bridge that was collapsing bit by bit after me.

AFP: IRANIANS ARREST AFGHAN RESISTANCE GROUP HEAD

OW171926 Paris AFP in English 1913 GMT 17 Aug 80

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 17 (AFP)--Iranian revolutionary guards have arrested an Afghan resistance group leader, rebel sources here said today.

The leader was named as Wali Beg, chief of the rebel movement "Ittehad Mujahedeen Islami Afghanistan", whose men are reportedly fighting Soviet troops in Hazarajat, central Afghanistan.

The sources said Mr Beg went to Iran last week to meet leaders of Iran-based Afghan resistance groups, to discuss joining forces against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

When he reached the Iranian town of Zahedan, bordering Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, a group of revolutionary guards entered his hotel and took him to an undisclosed destination, the sources said.

Mr Beg is chief of Afghanistan's Hazara tribe, and tribesmen have protested his arrest. But the Iranian consul in Quetta, Pakistan, said he knew nothing of the incident.

AFGHAN GENERAL CHARGES REBELS WITH CANNIBALISM

AU181430 Sofia BTA in English 1320 GMT 18 Aug 80

["Afghan General Interviewed"--BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, August 18 (BTA)--A prominent Afghan commander maintains that cannibalism has appeared among the bandits, opponents of the revolutionary government. In an interview published in the POGLED weekly today, Major-General Gol Aqa, chief of the political headquarters of the Afghan Army, states that the bandits kidnapped the 8-year-old son of an authority assistant and ate him. In reply to the doubts expressed by the POGLED correspondent, General Gol Aqa says that one of the bandits was captured and has confessed it. According to him, people have been skinned alive in the same gang.

According to the general, at the moment the number of the mercenaries does not exceed 30,000, spread in groups mainly along the Pakistani border. General Gol Aqa emphasized: "There is no organized resistance. Should they have been organized, it could be easier for us to manage with them all at once." He states that on Iran's territory there are also bandit camps. They are armed with American, Chinese and Egyptian weapons. The general maintains that since recently the bandits have also U.S. chemical weapons--chemical grenades made in the state of Pennsylvania. Says General Gol Aqa: "This is a terrible weapon. Lots of innocent victims have been poisoned with it".

The general points out that the balance of powers has been gradually changed in favour of the revolution, the people began to help them and the counter-revolution which could cause great damages was weakened. He emphasizes that the relations between the Soviet and the Afghan Army are more than fraternal. The Soviet comrades are here to help us defend our revolution. All the rest is slanders and lies.

"I am optimistic about the future," General Gol Aqa concludes: "Because the people understand and support us. And, because I hope the world will understand us, too".

GANDHI INTERVIEWED BY BULGARIAN TELEVISION

AU151418 Sofia BTA in English 1330 GMT 15 Aug 80

[Text] Sofia, 15 Aug (BTA)--Although she does not see present-day world in the best of light, India's Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi is an optimist as far as detente, peace and the future of mankind are concerned. In an interview to the special envoy of the Bulgarian television to Delhi Daniela Kuneva, Mrs Indira Gandhi emphasizes: "We believe in the process of detente because we believe that the tension in different parts of the world must be reduced not only in the name of world peace and the future of mankind, but even in the name of our nearest future."

The Indian premier continues: "Today everyone should say: Let us live in friendship, peace and understanding, let us join our efforts and put an end to poverty, to peoples' needs and sufferings, as much as this is possible...."

Outlining India's policy, Mrs Indira Gandhi says: "Since we have not been free, me and my generation, we have many living memories of the humiliation and suffering of our people during the colonial rule, so we are still very sensitive about freedom and would not like this freedom to be restricted or darkened in any way. This is why we participate so actively in the movement for absolute disarmament and in particular in the struggle against the danger of a nuclear war."

Replying to a question, Mrs Indira Gandhi points out that Bulgaria works for the cause of peace and that Bulgaro-Indian relations are close and important. Very good is the cooperation in the sphere of the economy and culture.

The prime minister emphasizes: "We love your leaders very much because we share many common ideals and views on the world with them and because they are making all possible efforts to understand, to really grasp India's problems. They do not view us as mere statistics. We appreciate highly this approach of your leaders. Your head of state, Todor Zhivkov, shows particular interest for us in the field of the conomy and politics. On the problems of the cultural cooperation a specific share falls on Mrs Lyudmila Zhivkova. I myself cherish many pleasant memories of my visit to Bulgaria."

To the question about Afghanistan Mrs Indira Gandhi points out that conditions must be created for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from that country. "There is no use of mere shouting. When we talked to different people we found out that they agreed with our opinion themselves."

GANDHI STRESSES RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESS

BK180830 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Aug 80

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has urged the press to keep the country's interests uppermost and help in the gigantic task of nation building.

Addressing members of the all-India newspaper editors conference in New Delhi today, she said newspapers can play a positive role in the present criticial situation. She cautioned them against the influence by insincere Western standards. Mrs Gandhi asked the press to judge for themselves whether their reporting is helping the country's unity and strength. She made it clear that she was not against dissent, but there is a difference between dissent and distortion.

Mrs Gandhi reiterated that it was for the press to discipline itself. She said that information they give should be correct as it influences the people.

COMMENTARY REVIEWS RAO DISCUSSIONS IN DACCA

BK191151 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 19 Aug 80

[V. Srirati Rao commentary]

[Text] The atmosphere of cordiality, friendship, trust and confidence generated by India's External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao during his visit to Dacca, paved the way for fruitful and frank discussions with his Bangladesh counterpart on many issues of interest to both the countries. The feelers of his successful meeting started reaching Delhi even before the issue of the joint communique. This has been amply demonstrated by the statement of Bangladesh Foreign Minister Shamsul Haq, who announced after his 2-day discussions with Rao that concrete decisions had been taken to find mutually acceptable solutions to some outstanding issues.

Emerging from the final round of talks External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao said at Dacca that the discussions had been very fruitful and they were held in a cordial atmosphere. This amply testifies India's faith in good neighborly relations and its earnest desire to sort out problems through discussions. The joint communique issued after discussions spelt out areas of agreement and issues of concern. India's acceptance to study further a suggestion made by Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman for the creation of a regional forum of some Asian countries and holding of a summit meeting for regional cooperation is worth mentioning. India has welcomed the proposal in principle and desired that preparatory work could start in this regard.

The issue of illegal entry of citizens across the India-Bangladesh border came in for detailed discussion. And, as was to be hoped, both the countries have agreed to tighten the security arrangements on the border in order to check illegal entry. Dacca's assurance to curb such movements has come as a welcome relief. It is important in view of the rising controversy seen in the states adjoining Bangladesh over the issue of foreigners, particularly the flow of people from Bangladesh to India. No doubt, the illegal entry of citizens has considerably declined because of steps taken by both the governments. The real issue is of complete stoppage of such illegal flow. The assurance given by the Bangladesh Government is encouraging.

The issues concerning the sharing of river water, particularly the long-term augmentation of the Ganges at Farakka, did naturally engage the attention of both the sides. The difficulties faced by both the countries were discussed in detail. Narasimha Rao made it clear that the bilateral agreement on sharing of Ganges water comes to an end by November 1982, which, of course, is due for a review in November this year. Despite the dry season shortage of water at Calcutta port, the Indian spokesman made it clear that India will honor its commitment. Rao is understood to have discussed the Farakka not only with his Bangladesh counterpart but also with President Ziaur Rahman, conveying India's concern on lack of progress in finding a solution to the long-term augmentation of dry season flows. This is perhaps the first time an Indian representative discussed the Farakka issue at a political level outside the Joint Rivers Commission, whose last meeting held during July yielded no results. It is hoped that the arrival of Ziaur Rahman during early September this year will help in discussing the issue in further detail.

During his stay at Dacca, Rao also discussed the matters relating to the ratification of land boundary agreement and delineation of the maritime boundary between both the countries. Rao was able to persuade his Bangladesh counterpart to give serious thought to mutually beneficial issues like opening of a second railway line and improving of water transport facilities between the two countries in addition to the exchange of cultural units.

Rao, an optimist, expressed complete satisfaction at his 2-day talks with his counterpart of Bangladesh. With this happy background of successful negotiations, Rao is proceeding to New York to participate in the UN General Assembly session with renewed faith and confidence.

RAO DEPARTS FOR NEW YORK, UN SESSION 19 AUG

BK191558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Text] External Affairs Minister P.V. Narashmha Rao left New Delhi today for New York to attend the special session of the U.N General Assembly on the Palestinian issue. The conference will also discuss the North-South dialog.

BHUTAN MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT, DEPARTS FOR NEW YORK

BK191612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Text] Visiting Foreign Minister of Bhutan Dawa Tsering called on Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee in New Delhi today. They discussed matters of mutual interest, including trade relations between the two countries. The issues relating to the on-going global negotiation and the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly were also discussed.

Tsering is now on his way to New York to attend the UN session.

INDIAN, NEPALESE DELEGATIONS DISCUSS RIVER WATERS

BK191614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Text] A six-member Nepalese delegation has begun discussions in New Delhi on the strategy for developing water resources benefiting Nepal and India. The Nepalese and the Indian delegation in their 3-day discussion will review the progress of joint projects and devise ways to remove bottlenecks in implementing these projects.

Leader of the Nepalese delegation (P.P. Shah) called on Minister for Irrigation Kedar Pandey today. Pandey emphasized the need to harness the water of common rivers for the benefit of the people in the two countries. He said proposals for the use of the Kosi and Karnani water could be taken up on a priority basis. (Shah) said the quick implementation of such projects would bring the people closer.

JANATA LEADER INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, KASHMIR

BK191347 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Aug 80 p 9

[Excerpt] Srinagar, 11 Aug (EXPRESS news service)--Dr Subramaniam Swamy, MP and general secretary of the Janata Party, said here today that China, which had earlier been talking of self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, had modified its stand on the issue.

He said its first indication came in 1978 when Mr Ji Pengfei, now deputy prime minister of China, told him that Kashmir should be treated as a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan. This, he said, was repeated in April this year "when I visited China. In my opinion it is a fundamental change," he added.

Dr Swamy, who heads a three-member delegation of his party to make an on-the-spot study of the situation following the violent incidents of July 26 and 27 in Srinagar, was talking to newsmen.

He said the prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi's, foreign policy was an "utter failure," not only with regard to China but also with regard to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Burma and Bhutan. She was "anxious to please" one country (Soviet Russia) and did not feel concerned about the feeling of "our neighbouring countries. She has undone what the Janata Party had done during its rule of the country," he added.

Dr Swamy said there should be good relations between India and Pakistan. According to him, there should also be an "axis" of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma and Sri Lanka on a regional basis. He did not elaborate.

The Janata leader said it was his personal view that India should not tell the United States not to give arms to Pakistan. Instead, he said, India should supply arms to Pakistan as a strong Pakistan would be a good neighbour of India.

Referring to the internal situation in Kashmir, Dr Swamy said there seemed to be an "air of normalcy in the valley." Communal harmony, he said, was by and large intact.

He said a large number of people had complained to the delegation that on July 27 in the city the police did not come forward to help the sufferers but simply looked on.

He also said that the incidents of July 27 suggested that there was some "force" behind the scene which had tried to exploit the situation and the joint committee of the state administration and the army, appointed by the state government, should look into it, he added.

Dr Swamy said the law and order machinery in the state should be tightened and the minorities should feel a sense of security. The attack on the two temples in Srinagar could have been contained, he said.

Answering questions, Dr Swamy said the chief minister, Sheikh Abdullah, whom he had met for 95 minutes, appeared to be against the thinking that only one party should rule in all the states. The sheikh, he said, also appeared to be against reducing chief ministers to "yes men."

He said no undemocratic method should be employed to dislodge Sheikh Abdullah's government which had been elected for six years.

"It appears to me that the Congress-I has no future in Kashmir, he said and added: "They [Congress-I] want to destabilise the sheikh government and then to share power with it."

His party had decided to deal with Sheikh Abdullah "on merits," he added.

Answering a question on article 370 of the constitution which gives a special position to Jammu and Kashmir in the Indian union, Dr Swamy said the article should have been removed in 1957 (when the state constitution was adopted).

"Now it should be removed only with the consent of the state people," he added.

PATRIOT: CHANGES IN PRC FOREIGN POLICY UNLIKELY

BK161345 Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Aug 80 p 2

[Editorial: "China Policy"]

[Text] The symposium on the need for a China policy held in the capital on Saturday shed revealing light on the different facets of Peking's foreign policy and sought to draw a guideline for India's policy towards China. A discussion of this kind was needed in the wake of the sudden and indefinite postponement of the visit of the Chinese foreign minister and the consequent speculation about the reason for such a decision. No one, naturally, took the Chinese at their word; their shady ends are usually served by shady means, such as equivocation or a white lie. In any case, the postponement aroused special interest in the Chinese policies and our policy towards China. The consensus at the symposium was that expansionism remained Peking's main objective and that India must not base its policy on the vague possibility of a future change in Chinese policies. Perhaps the most important point made was that India should convey to China that our policy of helping Vietnam and Kampuchea would not change and that we could wait for China to revive the process of normalization whenever it thought fit. We are not in a hurry.

The message has to be sent not only for information to the Chinese but for our own sake. There are some well-meaning people in India who use ideological systems to judge China and believe that Mr Deng Xiaoping's policy changes in domestic matters must bring about a desirable change in his foreign policy. There is no theory in the world which says that if we like domestic changes in a country we would like the foreign policy changes also if they occur. At the height of domestic changes Mr Deng committed aggression against Vietnam. In fact, the Deng clique, despite its liberalism in economic development, was known to be more bitterly anti-Soviet and chauvinistic than the ill-fated gang of four. Above all, only the gullilble will weigh Chinese leaders on an ideological scale. They are nationalists driven by the ambition to expand their territory and influence, and they proceed in the most pragmatic manner. Their collaboration with U.S. imperialism in Africa, Asia and wherever such collaboration is possible is meant to confirm Peking's loyal support to the West and create conditions for military and economic gains to convert China into a mighty power. Such collaboration, Deng Xiaoping believes, is essential for his four modernisations. And if such collaboration calls for denunciation of the Soviet Union, betrayal of socialist foreign policies and cutting your own nose, Mr Deng is ready to do all this. Thus, domestic changes may well intensify China's pro-imperialist and anti-peace policies. To draw a parallel graph of domestic and foreign policies is to commit a serious political error.

We do not have to watch like poor relations what possible changes are indicated in order to rush and embrace Mao's successors. We have our own well thought-out policies about Vietnam, Afghanistan, Indo-Soviet and Indo-U.S. relations, etc. The extent to which the Chinese begin to share our views over these and other problems of India-China normalisation will open up. There is little point in banging at the door locked from outside.

PAKISTANI PAPER REPORTS FORMATION OF JAGUAR SQUADRON

WA201310 Karachi DAWN in English 1 Aug 80 p 13

[Text] New Delhi, July 31 (AFP)--The first squadron of the Jaguar aircraft equipped with laser system has been formed, Indian Minister of State for Defence Mr C.P.N. Singh announced in Lok Sabha yesterday.

In reply to a question whether the deep penetration strike aircraft had achieved "full success" at firing ranges, the minister said "matters relating to our achievements at the firing ranges may not be disclosed in public interest. It is, however, well known that Indian pilots have always performed well on all aircrafts they are trained upon."

The minister denied India was planning to manufacture number-32 Soviet-type aircraft and the British-type coast guarder and Avro aircraft at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited from 1982.

Replying to another question, the minister said a new Indian transport plane is at the design stage. The plane was referred to by the minister as HPT-32.

India, he said, had been looking for an aircraft to meet three types of needs: medium tactical transport aircraft, piston engine aircraft for training purposes and feeder airlines. The minister said proposals were still being evaluated on the type of aircraft India should go in for. The moment one was found suitable for a particular need, it would be manufactured in collaboration with a foreign country. Alternatively, the Indian-designed HPT-32 would be put into production.

The minister made it clear that the government had yet to decide on manufacturing An-32 Soviet type aircraft, which had been looked into by the Janata government in 1979. The Soviet version was still at an experimental stage, not being manufactured, he added.

India is at present manufacturing transport planes HS-478, including its engines, for Indian Air Force and Indian Airlines Corporation.

MAJLES VOTES TO REPLY TO U.S. CONGRESSMEN'S LETTER

NC200802 Paris AFP in English 0755 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] Tehran, Aug 20 (AFP)--Iran's parliament voted today to reply to a letter from 187 American congressmen urging them to give absolute priority to the case of the 52 American hostages in this country.

But the "Majles" (parliament) has not yet decided what to answer.

Various members disagreed whether to send the reply to all 187, to the whole Congress or to the American people.

All suggestions on what to say and on where to send the reply should be submitted in writing to parliament's foreign affairs committee, the speaker of parliament Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani said.

The congressional letter was received here on July 20 and read in parliament the next day. It was the first time the matter of the hostages was raised in parliament since its session got under way in mid-July.

PALESTINIAN, ARAB EFFORTS TO END HOSTAGE CRISIS FAIL

LD201007 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT AL-USBU'IYAH in Arabic 17 Aug 80 p 1

["From the Diplomatic Pouch" feature]

[Text] Several Palestinian and Arab quarters have made new attempts to persuade Iran to release the American hostages and put an end to the crisis so as to enable it to devote its efforts to dealing with its domestic situation.

The first indications are that some Iranian leaders have not responded to the efforts and are insisting on seeing it through to the end.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DEMANDS RELEASE OF STUDENTS IN UK

LD191102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Bureau, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran today sent a protest to the Government of Britain, in which the actions of the police of that country in confrontation with the Muslim Iranian students are considered to be coordinated with and equal to the measures of the police of America.

In this communique it is stated that the reaction of the arrested Muslim students to the behavior of the British police arises from their revolutionary spirit and their firm belief in the justice of [word indistinct]. Going on a hunger strike and refusing to reveal their names are indications of the protest of these militant students against the methods which the [word indistinct] of the British police in discrediting their actions.

In another part of this communique it is stated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning the harsh behavior of the police toward the Muslim students, considers it necessary to remind the embassy concerned that the behavior of the British Government toward our students is an unfriendly act and has caused severe concern in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The obstacles faced by the students during their study or before arrival in recent months and also the [word indistinct] behavior of the border officials of Britain toward Iranians are among the problems which the Iranians encounter every day. Considering that the previous administration of Britain did not use such methods against Iranians, the question arises whether the Government of Britain has coordinated its hostile behavior with the methods of the United States of America against Iran.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers it necessary to [words indistinct] remind the British Embassy of the need to immediately release all Iranian students who are jailed in London. As the righteousness of the Iranian students in Britain has been proved to the nation of Iran, their release is the demand of the whole nation. We hope that your government will release our students from its jails as soon as possible and without delay.

PARIS MARCHERS CALL FOR FREEDOM OF STUDENTS IN UK

LD191814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Text] According to the report of our correspondent in Paris, yesterday afternoon a large number of Iranian students in France took part in a march in the central part of Paris as a protest against the imprisonment of their sisters and brothers in England. The demonstrators, who shouted slogans in support of their chained sisters and brothers and also in support of the Islamic Republic under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, were faced with the protest of a group of non-Iranians who chanted slogans against Iran and against the Islamic Revolution. They were dispersed with the interference of the police and without any clashes. At the end of these demonstrations, the marchers chanted slogans against the British Government and fascist police and demanded the unconditional release of their sisters and brothers.

MUSLIM STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE IN WEST BERLIN 14 AUG

JN151647 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 80

[Text] PARS reports that the student members of the Islamic society in West Berlin staged a large demonstration yesterday in protest against the arrest of the sister and brother Muslim students in America, Britain, Sweden, the Philippines and Italy. They revealed through their demonstration the crimes of U.S. imperialism and the savagery of the U.S. police.

In a statement they issued at the end of their demonstration, the students declared their full support for Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the nation and Islamic nation. They also called for the unconditional release of all their brother and sister students.

DETAINED STUDENTS IN ITALY FACE TRIAL 20 AUG

JN190907 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Excerpts] The president of a court in Rome has decided to try 12 Iranian university students on the charge of demonstrating last week outside Saint Peter's Cathedral in the Vatican. The trial will take place tomorrow. The students, 11 boys and 1 girl, were among the 22 students who staged the demonstration in support of the Palestinians and in denunciation of the behavior of British and American police toward fellow students detained in Britain and the United States.

The detained students are facing prison sentences ranging from 1 to 4 years. However, the president of the court said that it is likely that the students would merely be deported from Italy.

EXPATRIATES IN TEHRAN DEMONSTRATE AT BAHRAINI EMBASSY

JN191827 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Text] PARS reports that a group of Bahrainis residing in Iran, who said they were members of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, demonstrated in front of the Bahraini Embassy in Tehran this morning. They shouted slogans against the Bahraini Government.

A spokesman for the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain said that the demonstration was staged on the occasion of the elapse of 40 days of the martyrdom of Karim al-Habshi, martyred through torture in Bahrain's prisons.

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

'Appeal' to Iraqi Army

JN200952 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1845 GMT 19 Aug 80

[From "Today's Iraq on Al-Husayn's Path" program]

[Excerpts] Appeal to the valiant Iraqi Army:

Brother officers and soldiers, heroic mojahedin, may God's prayers and blessings be upon you all. The suffering you are experiencing under this criminal regime is seen by God. The harm and insults you are undergoing at the hands of this criminal gang indicate this agent regime's desperation. The large-scale massacres perpetrated against the army and the murder of free officers and honest soldiers augur the impending doom of this agent clique and the fall of the last masks of nationalism, democracy and liberty that cover its ugly and distasteful face.

Brother mojahedin, you are aware of this regime's fear of the valiant Iraqi Army. This regime is doing its best to keep this army from its main tasks and preoccupied with peripheral battles that only serve the agents and their masters in the area. The aim of the recurrent aggressions against the border of the Islamic Republic committed by this regime to deal a blow to Islam in Iran and the battles which this regime is fabricating to liquidate the Muslim Kurds in northern Iraq is to preoccupy the army and keep it busy lest it threaten this regime's existence. Thus, this regime resorts to this fabricated game whenever it senses a move in the army and whenever it feels threatened.

The Iraqi Army was Muslim and a supporter of Islam before owing allegiance to a party, regime or ruler. The character of the Iraqi Army is an Islamic one that expresses nobility and identity. The allowances and pay raises given by the ruling regime to military men cannot distort their noble character, silence their consciences or curb their indignation. Money, allowances and promotions will never influence the Iraqi soldier.

Above all, the masses pin their hopes on the Iraqi Army to deliver them from the hands of this agent clique and avenge the innocent martyrs of Islam, such as engineer Capt Ghalib Ibrahim, Staff Maj 'Asim Husayn, Maj Hamid Hasan al-Khayyun, Lt Ibrahim Jabarah, 1st Lt 'Abd al-Jabbar Mahmud and many other martyrs of Islam who sacrificed their cherished lives for this homeland to save the oppressed people in Iraq.

Further rallying of ranks, O sons of our proud army; further cohesion with the sons of your people who are looking up to you for deliverance; further arduous action until victory is scored. "And say 'Work righteousness; soon God will observe your work, and his apostle, and the believers. God speaks the truth.'" [Koranic verse]

Arrest of Weapons Smugglers

JN200719 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] Citing Islamic Revolution Guards in Ahvaz, PARS reports that two Iraqi Ba'thist agents have been arrested in Abadan. These two persons were smuggling weapons to Iran and selling them. A pistol and a machinegun were found in their possession when they were arrested.

PARS adds that another person has been arrested and that many Iraqi dinars and weapons were in his possession. This person was also arrested in Abadan. Another three persons were arrested for their cooperation with this person. Competent authorities are interrogating all those who have been arrested.

TEHRAN DEPLORES DEATH OF MUSLIMS IN INDIA

JN191254 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0420 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Scores of Muslims are being killed and injured every day in India. Their crime is that they met in the city of Muradabad to pray on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr. Thus, they became the target of a savage campaign by Indian riffraff to deprive them of the joy of celebrating the feast. It is as if Muslims have no right to celebrate the feast, whether in India or Baghdad.

And just as Saddam's [Iraqi President Saddam Husayn] gang offered its false condolences over the sorrowful incident at the Baghdad movie theater and shed crocodile tears over the youth and children whom it killed, the Indian ambassador in Pakistan also said that he is ashamed of what has happened in his country. But will such words return a widow's husband or an orphan's father or calm the sorrow of the bereaved?

Could not the Indian authorities, who are versed in the methods of oppression and torture, have maintained peace and order around the Muradabad mosque to enable the Muslims to perform their usual 'Id al-Fitr prayer? Or are the Hindus so scared of the rising population of Muslims, who now number 80 million, that they decided to reduce this number through massacres?

No one is far from the massacres going on in India. Therefore, why this silence over what is happening in India? Why are the news media of the Islamic countries silent over what is happening to the Muslims, while they report a workers' strike in a socialist bloc country under banner headlines? Is what is taking place in that socialist bloc country more important than what is happening to Muslims at the hands of Hindus?

COVERAGE OF ACTIVITIES OF AYATOLLAH KHOMEYNI

Audience With Shiraz Imam

LD171804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 80

[Text] Ayatollah Seyyed Abolhussyn Dastqeyb, the Shiraz Friday imam, accompanied by the commander of the Shiraz Revolutionary Guards Corps, Dr Khatami, had an audience yesterday afternoon with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to a report, during this meeting the Shiraz Friday imam presented Imam Khomeyni with a report concerning Fars region issues and needs.

Endowment Agency Appointments

LD171732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 80

[Excerpts] THE PARS NEWS AGENCY reports that Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Mahmud Jamarani as his representative to the endowment organization's central council.

The leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran also appointed today (Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh Mohammad 'Ali Nezamzadeh) as his representative to the endowment organization's central council.

State of Health Noted

LD191811 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Excerpts] Who is responsible for safeguarding the health and the most bountiful life of the imam? Why is it that no attention is drawn to the announcements by the imam's office regarding the cancellation of his public meetings and that we do not regard ourselves as obliged to observe this? Heroic nation of Iran, you know that our country is experiencing sensitive moments. At the time when the fruitful Islamic Revolution of Iran has decided with a firm resolve to take firm strides towards smashing all unjust relationships and breaking all the fetters of oppression, it is the duty of all the offspring of the heroic Iranian nation to strive with their lives to reinforce the strength and the might of this firm pillar and the strong foundation of this great monotheistic monument. You, the dear nation, know well that criminal superpowers and their hireling and reactionary agents in the region are trying and are engaged in a last-ditch effort to dismantle the most bountiful foundation of our revolution and weaken its foundations. They have realized well that the symbol of the unity of you, the nation, and the firm and lofty pillar of this extensive monument and the shining edifice of this revolution is the (?most inspiring) personality of the imam and that it is the imam who has the power with his word, with his movement, with his command with all his being to mobilize all nations, to cause to crumble all the manifestations of oppression and duality and to smash the power of the superpowers.

We shall, therefore, stress once again that the physicians treating his holiness the imam have strictly banned meetings with him, having diagnosed them as being harmful to his health and condition. The imam's office has often issued statements on this basis. Regretfully, however, this has not been heeded. And now it is you who must heed the warnings of the physicians treating him and the frequent statements by the imam's office.

Kermanshah Clergy Address

LD191458 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Speech delivered on 19 August in Tehran by Ayatollah Ruhollah Mosavi Khomeyni to a group from Kermanshah--recorded, duration 25 minutes]

[Excerpt] Our nation voted to elect its government. You are aware that (?at the time of) the satanic revolution [presumably the coup which toppled Mosaddeq] and for the 30 or 40 years since, democracy was not achieved. Iraq, for instance--this country next door to us, where a tyrannical oppresive government is in power and where one tyrannical government has overthrown the tyrannical government running that country before--although this government is suppressing the nation with all in its power, still the Iraqi Government has not been able to make a constitution. Even now a number of ungodly individuals sit together and rule in a dictrtorial way. It is unprecedented in the world, the way that our nation rose and destroyed a (?corrupt) government and after about 1 and 1/2 years achieved and gained all that is necessary for a government. They have written their Constitution, voted and chosen their Islamic Republic, their president, voted for their house of experts, voted to elect their deputies and soon, within the next few days, the prime minister will present his ministers, and all that is required for a government will materialise. Such achievements are unprecedented in the world.

In countries where there has not been a movement, because the government and the people are not in agreement, they have martial law. In our neighboring country, Turkey, there is martial law and there are curfews in many cities--and the curfews have been extended. The nation does not agree with the government. Why? Because the Turkish nation is Muslim and the government does not rule in accordance with Islamic principles. In Iraq, also, the nation opposes its usurper government and therefore the government is unable to maintain calm. It has no alternative but to suppress the people all the time. They are not able to create a government based on the correct foundations. The government we have is a government of the people. It is not imposed on us from abroad. Reza Khan was imposed on us by the British and Mohammad Reza was imposed on us by the British, the Americans and the Soviets. It was imposition from the beginning. When Reza Khan fled, something which perhaps only a few of you remember, although the people were beset by the allies and the aliens, they were nevertheless happy that their coming caused his departure. When Mohammad Reza went, you noticed that there was happiness everywhere. In a country whose government emanates from the people, whose government belongs to the people, in that country, when its president is involved in an accident--and that accident was truly amazing, because if you saw it on television the parts of the helicopter were scattered all over the ground--and those who were on board were among the major personalities of our country, including the president, the commander of the ground forces, and other (?dignitaries), none of them was harmed. [shouts of "God is great," "Khomeyni is the leader"]

Later, throughout Iran, people either held prayer meetings sent cables, took part in marches or demonstrated. Where else could you see such a thing? It is due to the fact that Mr Bani-Sadr did not come from abroad to be imposed on you. He had no power to impose himself on you. No, he was a person just like all of you, without any power. But he [word indistinct] gave speeches and drew the attention of the people who voted for him. He is of the people, and when a person is of the people the entire people will be with him. [shouts of "God is great," "Khomeyni is the leader"]

And now if in Iraq Saddam Husayn is involved in an accident [sound of laughter], or if in Egypt As-Sadat is involved in an accident [shouts of "God willing] and if they are not harmed as a result of this accident the people will mourn; but if they are destroyed as the result of the accident the people will rejoice. This is due to the fact that in our country there are no divisions. Its prime minister is not separate from the people. It is because of this that during the government, the tyrannical government, he went to prison, was tortured and suffered all calamities. He too is from you, and had no power to impose himself on you. Your own Majles, your own president appointed him. No one imposed him upon you. You should appreciate this Islamic Government, this Islamic movement and regard everything as emanating from God.

COVERAGE OF ACTIVITIES OF PRESIDENT BANI-SADR

Remarks to Islamic Envoys

LD191445 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 80 p 16

[Unattributed report: "Ambassadors of Islamic Countries Greet President of Republic on Occasion of 'Id al-Fitr: Bani-Sadr: 'Propaganda Against Islamic Republic of Iran Has Been Intensified in Islamic Countries'"]

[Text] Ambassadors of the Islamic countries met the president of the republic Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr last night and greeted him on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr.

According to a report by the PARS NEWS AGENCY, Somali Ambassador Mohammed Ali Sharmani, dean of the corps, congratulated the president.

Reciprocating the 'Id al-Fitr greetings, the president of the republic said:

"We regard the revolution as one which is part of the revolution of the Islamic homeland, that is to say, one involving the underprivileged of the world whose religion is that of Islam, and at the same time part of that revolution of all human beings who desire to live in a world of justice, equality and fraternity. We do not think that we have any particular crisis in our revolution. Certain Muslim ambassadors have complained of the behavior of our press. They should, however, put it down to the repression which our people suffered over a long period, and to the fact that, now there is freedom, they feel they must print or utter everything which they believe should be printed or uttered in connection with events taking place in the country, [even if these are,] according to one foreign observer, far removed from law and order. This has been seen in every revolution, though less in ours than in others. We do not believe that they are connected with crises arising from prerevolution or postrevolution conflict. These crises are exaggerated beyond their true dimensions, in order to isolate our revolution.

"According to reports, the intensity of propaganda in the Islamic countries is greater [than ever, or than in non-Islamic countries], and they have even gone as far as to accuse us of not being Islamic.

"Our social environment at the level of the masses has become more wholesome, and the sort of criminal behavior which is characteristic of dictatorial regimes and countries with materialistic cultures is quite rare in our country.

"In Islamic lands today we are faced with aggression and the attempts being made by hegemonists to plunder the resources of these countries, and open warfare already exists in Afghanistan and Palestine, and in many Islamic and non-Islamic countries attempts are being made to dominate the people of these lands, and this is why fighting continues."

Meeting With Azarbayjan Governor

LD191822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Text] According to the report of PARS NEWS AGENCY, at noon today Mr Hoseyn Taheri, the governor general of West Azarbayjan, met and conferred with Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president. In this meeting the problems and difficulties of West Azarbayjan, as well as the security issues of this region, were discussed.

PROCEEDINGS OF 19 AUG MAJLES SESSION REPORTED

LD191714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Excerpts] According to our reporter, today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly started at 0925 with recitation of some verses from the holy Koran under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam va Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani. At the start of today's open session, Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani referred to the fire at Abadan's Rex Cinema and said: On a day like today a group of our brothers and sisters were burned in a fire at the hands of the agents of (?the former regime). Thus it is appropriate to commiserate the bereaved families and I, on behalf of the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, offer condolences to the families of these martyrs.

Our correspondent adds: At this meeting the report of the committee of investigation on the credentials of Ja'far Tavakkoli, the deputy from Golpayegan, was raised. In connection with this issue and the Golpayegan elections, several of the deputies made speeches and expressed their own views. Then Ja'far Tavakkoli defended himself in a lengthy speech. Finally, his credentials were rejected with 99 votes against, 59 in favor and 30 abstentions, out of the total vote of 178.

Following the preagenda speeches, Bahram Tajgardan, the deputy from Gachsaran and Kohkiluyeh, presented some information on the explosion of a store in the region of Gachsaran. He asked the deputies to observe (?1 minute of) silence and read a speech to honor the martyrs of history, martyrs of the revolution and the martyrs of the Gachsaran disaster. He added: The nomadic people of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad strongly believe in the Islamic Republic and the Shi'a religion and have practically proved their feeling of cooperation.

The Gachsaran deputy later explained the causes of the explosion and said: The construction of the road to the village had been undertaken by a company on a contract basis. The company had chosen a place for storing explosives and built some huts around the store to house the nomads. Apparently the explosion was caused by a fire which started in one of the huts. People approached the place to extinguish the fire, but the fire reached the explosives store and resulted in an explosion killing at least 80 people. A large number of the people are still buried under the rubble.

In conclusion he thanked the officials in charge of the relief operations and, while offering his condolences to the imam of the nation, demanded that the responsible authorities must investigate the causes of the fire and explosion to find out if there were some other causes for the fire.

Afterward, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, made a speech and said: [Read by announcer]

It seems that the day of 19 August is a sinister day for us, because on a day like this four cases of tragic incidents have occurred;

First, the shameful coup d'etat of 19 August; second, the massacre of the Muslim people of Paveh, today being the anniversary of their martyrdom; third, the fire at the Rex Cinema in Abadan where the criminal regime of Pahlavi committed such a tragic crime to prolong its rule for several more days; and finally, the explosion of Paveh, the dimensions of which are not yet clear, but the possibility of the secret involvement of the enemies of the revolution is not remote. Thus we must consider today a sinister day and we hope to find ways in the future to overcome the sinister power of this day.

Today's open session ended at 1300 and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani announced that the next open session of the Majles will start at 0900 tomorrow, and the credentials of 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar [name as received] a deputy from Tehran, will be investigated.

COMMERCE MINISTER REZA SADR ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

LD191611 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 80 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Commerce Minister Submits Letter of Resignation to Imam"]

[Text] In a letter to the imam last Thursday (7 August) Commerce Minister Reza Sadr announced his resignation in the following terms:

His great eminence the Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may his shadow grow long: Now that the great Islamic Revolution has realized yet another of the hopes of the imam of the community, and now that the Islamic Consultative Assembly has indicated its preference in the election of the prime minister, I express gratitude to Your Eminence and tender my resignation as commerce minister in accordance with established custom.

I hope that measures taken by the commerce minister over the past 18 months receive the approbation of Almighty God and the acceptance of the lord of the age--may our souls be his sacrifice--and I hope that my colleagues in the ministry and and I myself have succeeded in accomplishing something, however insignificant, along the path toward the attainment of the aspirations of the Islamic Revolution. I will continue to serve in office until such time as the prime minister appoints a successor.

In offering good wishes for the perpetuation of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and communal unity under your great leadership, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr. And peace upon you and the mercy of God, and his blessings.

[Signed] Reza Sadr

Confirmation copies to His Excellency Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, with thanks for your cooperation and encouragement, and to His Excellency Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, with good wishes for your success.

LONDON PAPER INTERVIEWS SHAHPUR BAKHTIAR

LD151419 London NOW! in English 15-21 Aug 80 pp 14-15

[Brian Crozier interview with Shahpur Bakhtiar in Paris; no date given]

[Text] The man Khomeyni tried to kill, Shahpur Baktiar, expects the ayatollah's regime to collapse of its own accord, as the natural consequence of its own brutality and incompetence.

"If, he told me in Paris, "the terror was lifted for 24 hours or 48, I could enter Iran from any point, without an escort, and I would be acclaimed all the way to Tehran."

Political leaders in exile need the kind of faith implicit in these remarks, even though the ayatollah is unlikely to oblige Dr Bakhtiar by lifting the terror which alone sustains his barbarous theocratic regime. Lenin expected the tsarist regime to collapse and a long line of exiled aspirants to power, from Makarios to Mugabe, nourished their ambitions on similar hopes.

Not that Shahpur Bakhtiar, the shah's last prime minister, is in other respects similar to those just named, being by inclination a liberal democrat. As no two terms have been more subject to semantic erosion, I add that I mean liberal in the sense of John Stuart Mill, and democrat in the manner of Westminister, or perhaps more accurately of the French Fifth Republic, for which he expressed admiration.

Three weeks afer surviving a botched assassination attempt, Bakhtiar is under heavy and costly guarded surveillance. Half a dozen plain-clothes men, and the same number of uniformed guardsmen, sub-machine guns at the ready, are there to screen visitors.

Bakhtiar is 65 but looks 10 years younger. The deep lines are those of experience, not age. He spent five years in the shah's jails until, in the last desperate weeks, the shah himself called him to power in an effort to stem the rising revolutionary tide. He was premier for 38 days, before slipping into hiding, later resurfacing in Paris. "A few months earlier," he said, "I could have done it. But it was too late."

Unlike so many of the exiled notables of Iran, and despite Khomeyni's campaign of vilification and attempted murder, Bakhtiar is "clean." On the morning of our meeting, he had announced the formation of a national resistance movement.

Having met him now, I am strengthened in the belief that Bakhtiar is Iran's last hope in reserve. I say this not only because he is uncorrupted by power, but also because he has proved his courage and because, behind his genuine taste for liberal democracy, one is aware of the man's steely resolve.

He denies that he was personally involved in the recent abortive military plot against the regime of the mullahs, although he is proud and touched that each of the 11 arrested officers told the revolutionary court that he "wanted Bakhtiar"--before being summarily shot.

He expects another group to make a successful attempt to overthrow the mullahs and "clean up". And he has no doubt that those who rid the country of the ayatollah's rule will turn to him as the natural choice to lead Iran back to civilisation and sanity.

His reports from inside the country, if they are to be believed, show that his support is not confined to the intellectuals and the formerly prosperous middle class, but is growing fast among the little people, including "the bazaar".

This claim will not be put to the test unless the remnants of the shah's forces turn against the mullahs and do not botch the job. Quite apart from this prospect, however, Dr Bakhtiar's basic assumption is that the Islamic Republic is surely doomed, sooner or later, because things cannot go on as they are.

Similarly, things could not go on as they were in the last chaotic and violent days of the Allende regime in Chile, or in the unbelievable last weeks of the regime of Peron's widow, "Isabelita" of Argentina, when the worst outbreak of terrorism in the world (including Italy) was rapidly gaining ground. Or for that matter in Greece before the colonels took over, and in Brazil in 1964.

"Human rights," says Bakhtiar, "are being violated every day, and the published figures need to be multiplied by two or three to arrive at the approximate truth.

"I am astonished that the Western press does not pay more attention to these atrocities. It was bad under the shah, but it is ten times worse now."

He estimates that industrial production in Iran is down by 75 to 80 per cent, and adds that there is no food in the shops or markets: "The ayatollah has a total ignorance of economics and politics."

Inevitably, our conversation came round to oil and Soviet ambitions. He is worried by the evidence that the Soviet Union wants access to the Strait of Hormuz and to the oil of the gulf, including Iranian oil. He sees a real danger that the fanatics now in power in his country would just blow up the oil wells if the Soviet threat drew too close.

I asked him what he would do if circumstances put him back in power. "I would concentrate the country's energies on restoring agricultural and industrial production," he replied.

"Instead of military service, I would introduce civil conscription, especially on the land."

And what kind of constitution did he envisage? "Islam would, of course, be the official religion. My aim, in due course, would be to institute a democratic system. But first there would have to be a constituent assembly, and the 1906 Constitution (which pre-dates the coup of 1921 that brought the late shah's father to power) is the only juridical basis on which to build. Whether in the end Iran is a republic or a monarchy is less important."

Wryly, Bakhtiar recalled receiving the French ambassador in Tehran during the turbulent autumn of 1978, when the ayatollah was setting up house outside Paris, and saying, tolerantly, that he might as well be allowed to stay there.

Now the wheel has turned full circle, with the ayatollah in Tehran, and Bakhtiar in Paris, still calling for his overthrow.

OIL MINISTER CITED ON PRODUCTION, OPEC PRICING ISSUES

LD191523 Tehran KEYHAN in Pwrsian 13 Aug 80 p 15

[Unattributed report: "Oil Minister at Press Conference: 'If Iran Ceased Oil Sales, Iraq Would Fill Gap'"]

[Text] "If Iran were to cease to export and sell its oil, or reduce [production] levels, Iraq would come along, increase its own production and fill the gap." This comment was made by Oil Minister 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar at a press conference [date and place not specified].

The Iranian oil minister was asked at this conference: "Before the address delivered at the Friday prayers this week, Jalaleddin Farsi said in a speech marking international Jerusalem Day that Iran ought to increase its oil production and use the revenues to buy arms and help the Palestinians. What is your view of this, and what steps has the Oil Ministry taken in this direction?"

In reply, Oil Minister 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar said: "First, as you know, according to [decrees] ratified by the Revolution Council, the Oil Ministry is responsible for the sale of oil and for handing over revenues obtained from it to the state. When received, these revenues go into the public treasury and the Oil Ministry naturally has no right to specify how they should be spent. Any decisionmaking in this connection lies with the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

"However, in principle the question of oil production is a technical one and should not be confused with heroic sentiment. Not all matters can be solved simply by raising production; oil revenues are governed by two factors, production level and unit price, and it sometimes happens that when one is raised the other falls. Assistance to the Palestinian nation does not mean that we should remorselessly dissipate our resources, which is what the bloodthirsty regime of the past used to do. Of course, the Islamic Consultative Assembly may earmark a budget of any size it considers necessary for the assistance of our brother Palestinian Muslims, and for the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem. In such a case we may then proceed to drill for as much oil as is required to obtain the requisite amount of foreign currency, and our calculations should be logical and precise. At any rate, production levels should take into account all aspects of planning."

On the subject of the countries which are taking steps to regulate the oil markets, Mo'infar said: "Certain OPEC countries--Libya, Algeria, Nigeria and to a certain extent Kuwait, Qatar and Venezuela--have taken steps both to reduce production and bring prices to the level decided on by OPEC, but unfortunately, two of the main OPEC producers, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, who between them control over 40 percent of total OPEC exports, have basically done nothing to reduce production or adjust prices. For example, Saudi crude, which is similar to Iranian crude, is now $7 cheaper than ours. They are giving it away as a gift to the American oil guzzlers. Of course, among the decisionmakers of Saudi policy [incomplete sentence as published]

In conclusion the oil minister said: "Saddam Husayn is quite prepared to render good service wherever possible to the detriment of the Islamic community, to [help] world-devouring imperialism and international Zionism, and thus to dissipate the wealth of the underprivileged Iraqi nation by increasing oil production to the maximum. It is interesting to note that in carrying out the tasks assigned to him by its masters, if Iran were to stop selling and exporting oil, or to reduce [production] levels, Iraq would come along and fill the gap."

155 'ASSAILANTS' KILLED IN ATTACK ON BANEH BASE

LD190945 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 80 p 15

[Unattributed report: "In a Clash With Army Troops and Guards, 155 Assailants Attacking Baneh Military Base Killed"]

[Text] A public relations spokesman for the combined operations headquarters in the west of the country has reported as follows: "A fierce clash took place at 1700 on 10 Aug during a mopping-up operation around Baneh, involving guards and troops of the Islamic Republic and assailants. One hundred fifty-five of the latter were annihilated."

In his report from Kermanshah, this public relations spokesman says: "At 1700 hours on 10 Aug a clash took place involving troops of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the guards corps who were engaged in a mopping-up operation around Baneh.

"In this clash, the forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the guards, acting with total resolve, inflicted crushing losses on the assailants, who intended to attack the military base at Baneh, and annihilated about 155 of them before returning safely to base."

COUP ATTEMPT PARTICIPANT ARRESTED IN BABOL

JN191846 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Text] Reza Habibi, a collaborator in the recent abortive coup attempt network and an agent of the defunct regime, has been arrested in Babol city. The public relations office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps command in Iran's northern regions announced that he had been involved in plo ting and in mobilizing mercenaries to be sent to the country's western regions.

KHALKHALI ISSUES STATEMENT ON ADDICTS, PEDDLERS

LD151837 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Aug 80

[Text] Antinarcotics squad chief Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali today released a statement which reads in part: Nearly 200 addicts and dope peddlers have been detained by the police around Jamshid and Ghavan-Dafter streets [in Tehran] and they have been handed over to the special antinarcotics court.

While thanking the police for their activities, we remind people that the police ought to be careful in handing over people to the special court so as to make sure that among them are not included sinless ones who have been unjustly detained. They should also report the names of the detainees and the location where the addicts and dope peddlers have been detained. The statement further says that according to minutes which were signed in the presence of the president, officials of the Health Ministry are dutybound to make available at the earliest possible time a suitable place for the detention of addicts and to communicate the information to the headquarters of the antinarcotics campaign. Also, providing treatment facilities, doctors and medicine are the responsibility of the Health Ministry.